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15 JAN 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: John F. Blake
Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT: Drug Notification Program - Status Report

1. Action Requested: Your signature on three letters is requested:

a. A letter to Secretary Califano requesting that he designate someone to furnish guidance on how to apply rules or standards of the Government developed for use of other agencies whose research projects have put them in positions of having to seek and notify subjects; to furnish guidance about whether CIA is the best agency to take the lead in a notification program, since other agencies of the government were involved in the MKULTRA program; and to help us with a pharmacological evaluation of drugs used to determine their potential for having caused harmful long term aftereffects.

b. A letter to the Secretary of the Army requesting that subjects of research under project OFTEN be included in the Army notification program. Apparently there were only two such individuals and there is some difference of opinion between the Department of Defense and the Agency about whether testing was done while the project was being funded by CIA or after Agency funding terminated. Regardless of that issue, if tests were done they were conducted by Army personnel under Army procedures and protocols at an Army installation using a substance developed in an Army R&D program. Under these circumstances it seems reasonable that test subjects should be notified by the Army if notification is appropriate.

c. A letter to the Attorney General requesting assistance in seeking and interviewing present or former employees of the Bureau of Narcotics to find out what really happened in the New York and San Francisco safehouses. CIA may be somewhat less culpable for any direct role in unwitting

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testing than we were prepared to state at the time of the Senate hearings. A 1943 memorandum to General Donovan transmitting a report from George White has been found reporting unwitting use of drugs as an aid in the interrogation of a Mafia figure at a safehouse in New York in 1943. At that time George White was a Bureau of Narcotics employee working with or assigned to OSS. This is the same George White who was the principal in the safehouse operations attributed to CIA in the 1950's. Former CIA employees with whom the question has been discussed have said that the safehouses were primarily for Bureau of Narcotics, not CIA use. It seems possible that what went on in the safehouses remains a mystery because the right question has never been asked of the right people. The Senate questioners asked only what CIA was doing in the safehouses and no one questioned could furnish details. What the Bureau of Narcotics Agents were doing in those safehouses remains to be asked. The letter you are requested to sign is intended to open the door to find the right person to ask.

2. Status Report:

a. Deputy Directors and Directors of Offices involved in the drug research programs have given their assurances that, barring only human error, there are no drug related programs or projects that have not been surfaced.

b. Drugs used in BLUEBIRD/ARTICHOKE are not likely to have caused harmful long term aftereffects, and drugs were administered only to foreign nationals, e.g., defectors and prisoners of war; no U.S. citizens were involved as subjects. No further action is required.

c. Project CHICKWIT was concerned with collection of information about foreign pharmaceuticals. No human testing was involved. No further action is required.

d. Project OFTEN is discussed in paragraph 1.b. above. Subject to your signature on the letter to the Secretary of the Army, no further action is required.

e. 85 of the MKULTRA, MKSEARCH and follow on Grants did not involve human experimentation, and no further action is required.

f. 40 of the MKULTRA/MKSEARCH/Grants where humans were involved require no further action. 18 of these require no action because no drugs were involved. 22 require no further action because drugs used were not likely to have caused harmful aftereffects; subjects were witting volunteers, usually paid; research was conducted under

the management and substantive control of the institution such that there is no CIA liability; or some combination of these factors.

g. MKULTRA, MKSEARCH and the Research Grants where human involvement is known or suspected are divided, for the sake of convenience, between those involved with institutions and those involved with the safehouses in New York and San Francisco.

(1) Six MKULTRA subprojects relate to the safehouses. The letter to the Attorney General described in paragraph 1.c. above is intended to get at part of the safehouse problem. Letters seeking interviews with eight former Agency employees known to have been acquainted with the MKULTRA program are ready for dispatch as soon as we have current addresses. In addition, letters have been addressed to the physician in New York and the physician in San Francisco who acted as medical consultants to the safehouse operations requesting their assistance and interviews. We have not yet heard from New York but we have received a long letter from San Francisco. A copy of that letter is attached and is worth careful reading. Each of these physicians was also involved with four MKULTRA/MKSEARCH projects (4 on the west coast and 4 on the east coast) conducted at institutions. The institutional projects with which these physicians were associated used witting, paid volunteers; the fact and substance of the research was known to the institutions involved; and, insofar as can be determined, the rules and procedures of the institutions were followed. Only the fact of CIA funding was concealed. The letter from the San Francisco physician confirms these conclusions. The institutions have accepted implicit responsibility for the work done and the manner in which it was conducted.

(2) Other than those projects related to the safehouses, only 15 subprojects involving only four researchers and possibly one institution require action. Action is required in these cases to seek further information; not because there is any suggestion that anyone might have been harmed. The files simply are too incomplete to permit confident conclusive judgments to be made. Further, three of the four investigators were at one time employed by the Agency, were involved in 14 of the 15 subprojects requiring action, and may have some knowledge beyond the scope of the particular projects with which they were directly involved that

might be helpful. Letters have been sent to two of these individuals, and letters to the other two are ready as soon as we have current addresses.

3. Summary:

In sum, unwitting testing sponsored directly by CIA seems to have been limited almost exclusively to the safehouse operations. Whether CIA or the Bureau of Narcotics was most directly responsible remains to be determined. Apart from the safehouse activities we have found for the most part that CIA was interested in the results of research initiated and sponsored by other organizations and conducted in accordance with professional and ethical standards applicable to the particular circumstances at the time. We have found no evidence that CIA exerted undue influence or attempted to coerce individuals or institutions to undertake research they might not otherwise have undertaken nor did the Agency attempt to cause any compromise of professional and ethical standards under which the research was conducted. None of the research conducted by private institutions was clandestine; studies were carried out openly and the results in many cases were published. As a matter of fact, it can even be reported that some significant contributions were made to the advancement of psychiatry, pharmacology and medicine.

Finally, as a matter of interest, I would like to bring to your attention one paragraph of a letter received from the President of [redacted] in response to the General Counsel's letter last year notifying him of [redacted] involvement. The President of [redacted] said:

> "If I had been at the time individually aware of such a research project and had been called upon to pass judgment on it, I would have judged it by the merit of the particular project and not by which governmental agency was directly or indirectly sponsoring the research. As far as I am concerned the CIA is just as respectable as any other governmental agency or private foundation ... I wonder whether most of this concern about these research projects arises not out of any ethical considerations but out of hostility in certain circles toward anything done by the CIA whether openly or covertly."

Our investigation thus far tends to confirm his insight.

We will keep you informed as further progress is made.

Your signature on the three letters proposed is requested.

/s/ John F. Blake

John F. Blake

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[redacted] SA/DDA: [redacted] (4 Jan 79)